

Montana Post * Volume 42, Number 1 * Spring 2004

To subscribe to the e-mail edition of the Montana Post, please send an e-mail, subject "subscribe" to mkohl@state.mt.us.

Contents

From the Director

Society Supports Local Historic Preservation Commission Projects

New Exhibits to Open at the Society

Homestead Families Urged to Share History

Camp to Capital Guidebook Created in Partnership with Local School

New Books from MHS Press

History Happenings

Accessions

Calendar

Summer Hours

From the Director

Arnie Olsen

There are many amazing and wonderful things about working at the Montana Historical Society. One of them is opportunity to discover, again and again, how much Montanans care about passing on our state's history and heritage to future generations.

August and Mary Sobotka were two such Montanans. We knew little of August and Mary Sobotka, who had a ranch near Glendive, until several weeks ago. They were hard-working ranchers and were loved and highly respected in their community. Their active involvement and support for several Glendive-area organizations was testimony to their understanding of the concept of community.

August was born on his parent's homestead near Stipck and began to run the family operation in 1927 while still attending Glendive High School after his father died. Mary came to Glendive as a teacher and the couple married in 1961 after the death of August's mother.

August preceded Mary in death, and when Mary died last year, she left a significant portion of the estate to the Montana Historical Society, two local churches, the local hospital, a community foundation, the Intermountain Children's Home, University of Montana, and Montana State University. It was my pleasure to represent the Society at a ceremony in Glendive in February of this year where the gifts were presented.

The Society's portion of the estate was over \$243,000. As was Mary and August's desire, we are using the money to help preserve and educate the public about Montana's rich heritage. Our goal is to make a lasting impact with these funds while making a permanent difference for Montana history. As a first step, we have created the August and Mary Sobotka Education Trust Fund. The purpose is to provide a perpetual source of funds for college/university student interns (at least one per year) so that assistance with Montana Historical Society priorities can be accomplished while providing a meaningful education experience for students. Priorities will be given to Montana college and university students, with exceptions for Montana students who go out of state for a degree but return home to Montana for the summer. Education was an important priority for the Sobotkas, as it is for the Society.

Additionally, the funds will be used to support a major long-term exhibit in what was formerly the F. Jay Haynes Gallery. The exhibit, "Neither Empty Nor Unknown," focuses on the Native American culture and the interdependent natural resources present in what is now Montana at the time of Lewis and Clark. Other funded projects will be archaeological work along the Yellowstone River in eastern Montana, preparation of reproductions of some of our rarest Indian artifacts for exhibition and research, enhancement of our membership program, and purchase of quality storage units for some of our rarest and most fragile historical books, maps, and drawings.

August and Mary Sobotka have set a wonderful example for all of us in giving so much back to their community and state and making a lasting contribution to Montana history. Their names will live on with the Society and the students served by the trust and through the other projects the gift will fund. If you would like to discuss or learn more about planned giving to the Society, please feel free to call me at 406-444-5485, or e-mail me at aolsen@state.mt.us.

(From left to right) Shirley Lenhart, attorney Gerald Navratil, Representative Ralph Lenhart, Arnie Olsen, and MHS Board Member Judy Cole pose with an oversized check representing the \$243,113 donated to the Montana Historical Society by the estate of Mary and August Sobotka.



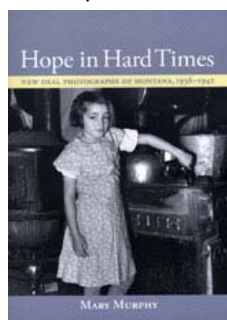
Society Supports Local Historic Preservation Commission Projects

Eight Montana communities with certified local government preservation commissions (CLGs) will receive a combined \$20,000 in special project funding from the State Historic Preservation Office this year. The grants are in addition to the annual support provided to the CLGs by the SHPO and the National Park Service. "Dollar-for-dollar, funds to the CLGs leverage some of the best preservation efforts in the state," Historic Preservation Officer Mark Baumler said.

CLGs in Anaconda/Deer Lodge County, Yellowstone County, Bozeman, Carbon County, Great Falls/Cascade County, Lewistown, and Virginia City will receive grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000. Funded projects include creation of a design-review plan, Historic Preservation Week programming, architectural surveys of barns and commercial buildings, a preservation workshop, file cases for architectural drawings, and the rehabilitation of a library.

New Exhibits to Open at the Society

Hope in Hard Times: New Deal Photographs of Montana will open on Thursday, May 6, 2004, in the Reflections Gallery. The exhibit will run through November 2004. Guest curated by Montana State University history professor and MHS board member Mary Murphy, the exhibit features photographs from the Farm Security Administration Collection at the Library of Congress. The photographs were taken in the 1930s and 1940s, when four FSA photographers were detailed to Montana to document the effects of the Depression on the state.



Mary Murphy's book on the same theme, *Hope in Hard Times*, recently won the Friends of the Missoula Public Library's Montana Book Award. Created in 2002, the award recognizes literary and/or artistic excellence in a book that is set in Montana, deals with Montana themes or issues, or is written, edited, or illustrated by a Montana author or artist. The Montana Historical Society Press published *Hope in Hard Times* in 2003.

At the May 6 opening, Murphy will present a public lecture, after which she will be available to sign copies of her book. Following its showing at the Historical Society, *Hope in Hard Times* will be available to other institutions as a traveling exhibit. For more information on how to book the exhibit call Julie Keenan at 406-444-4789.

Montana Botanical, will open in the MHS lobby on June 10, 2004. The exhibit will feature four Montana plant specimens collected by Captain Meriwether Lewis in 1806: a bitterroot collected at Traveler's Rest along the Lolo Trail; an Indian blanket flower collected on Lewis and Clark Pass; beargrass, (also known as Indian basket grass) collected along the Lolo Trail; and syringa (or mock orange), collected along the Blackfoot River. On loan from the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia, the specimens will be exhibited through September 3 in a fiber optically lit, closed-circulation case specifically built to protect the fragile artifacts.

Artwork made from and featuring Montana native plants will complement the specimens and remain on exhibit through early November. Among other paintings on display will be watercolors by Montana

State University's first art professor, Frederica Marshall. Montana adopted Marshall's depiction of the bitterroot to represent the state flower.

The exhibit opening on June 10 will feature a lecture by Dr. John Taylor, a retired professor of range sciences, on the plants of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

Homestead Families Urged to Share History

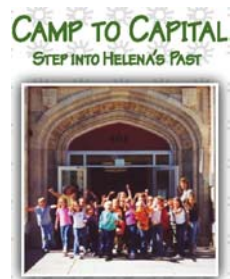
The Montana Historical Society is working with the National Park Service on a project to collect historical information from descendants of Montana.

The project is being done at no cost to the Society. Five researchers from the National Park Service will come to Montana in early April to begin working with MHS archivist and oral historian Jodie Foley to collect the information and conduct a limited number of oral history interviews across the state. Montana is only the second state to be involved in this project nationally.

Descendents of homesteaders are being asked to answer a one-page questionnaire with questions such as "Where did your family/ancestors homestead? Do you know the legal land description(s) of the homestead(s) in question?" There also is a space for people to add any family stories or first-hand experiences dealing with homesteading. Persons do not have to be still living on the family homestead to answer the survey.

Surveys are available on the Internet at www.montanahistoricalociety.org, under Research Center, or by calling Foley at 406-444-6779. The deadline for submitting them is October 1, 2004.

Camp to Capital Guidebook Created in Partnership with Local School



Third grade teachers Karen Sturm and Nancy Robinson at Helena's Central School partnered with MHS interpretive historian Ellen Baumler to produce an innovative guidebook titled *Camp to Capital*. The three received a Helena Education Foundation grant, funded by the Helena Elks Lodge #193, to provide this permanent resource for anyone who wants to learn about the history of Helena's special places.

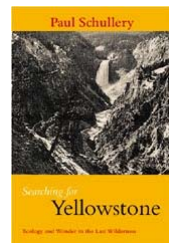
The idea began a decade ago with Central teacher Maureen Redfield, who initiated a community history unit. She and teacher Jan Pepin, with Chere Justo at the State Historic Preservation Office, began using historic photographs to teach Helena history. Comparing nineteenth-century streetscapes to the same streets

today

became the core of the unit. Students took a guided tour of Helena's downtown, xeroxed photos in hand, and then shared what they learned by taking family members on the tour. Over the years, Baumler refined the idea and added historical anecdotes.

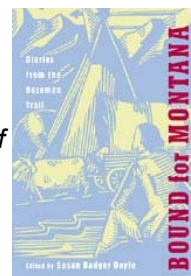
When Redfield and Pepin retired, Sturm and Robinson wanted to continue this legacy. Partnering with Ellen Baumler, they produced the current booklet that will be distributed free of charge to all Helena third-grade classrooms. Lively text and a map complement historic and contemporary photographs to tell the story of some of Helena's landmark places. Copies are available for purchase for \$5.00 through the Museum Store and the Chamber of Commerce. All profits will underwrite reprinting costs.

New Books from the Montana Historical Society Press



The Montana Historical Society Press announces two new books for spring. *Searching for Yellowstone: Ecology and Wonder in the Last Wilderness*, by Paul Schullery, traces Yellowstone's social and ecological history from the Pleistocene to the present in a seminal work that the press is pleased to bring back into print.

In *Bound for Montana: Diaries from the Bozeman Trail*, editor Susan Badger Doyle brings the Bozeman Trail to life through seven distinctive voices of travelers who recorded the dangers and pleasures, frustrations and joys of travel on the trail. Doyle is the editor of the two-volume *Journeys to the Land of*



Gold: Emigrant Diaries from the Bozeman Trail, 1863-1866, previously published by the press. Both books are available by calling 1-800-243-9900 or through the Society's Publication and Membership program: <http://montanahistoricalsociety.org/pub/default.asp>

History Happenings

If you are looking for something fun and interesting to do, think **Thursday evenings at the Montana Historical Society**. The Society has launched a special series of free programs that will be held every Thursday until May 27, 2004. Topics range from researching historical properties to "Pages in History," the Society's monthly book discussion. See the Calendar for details.

Neither Empty Nor Unknown: Montana at the Time of Lewis and Clark, a new long-term exhibit currently under construction, will focus on Montana as it was in 1805. Over seven replica environmental landforms along and fifteen educational interactive stations will introduce visitors to Montana's natural environment and the diverse communities who lived here at the time of Lewis and Clark's epic journey. The 4,500-square-foot exhibit—the museum's largest undertaking since the opening of the *Montana Homeland* exhibit—will be installed in what was formerly the F. J. Haynes Gallery. Funding for the \$550,000 exhibit has come from limited designated state Lewis and Clark funds, a grant from the Montana Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission, and private donations. Additional funding is still needed for the exhibit and accompanying programming and curriculum materials. To help, contact the Montana History Foundation at 406-449-3770.

Virginia City was honored as **Montana's first Preserve America community** in a ceremony held March 18, 2004, in Washington, D.C. *Preserve America* is a 2003 White House initiative promoted by First Lady Laura Bush to encourage, recognize, and support community efforts for the preservation and enjoyment of our nation's heritage. Communities wishing to be designated as *Preserve America* communities may visit the program's website at www.PreserveAmerica.gov or contact Montana Historical Society's community preservation coordinator Rolene Schliesman (406-444-7742; rschliesman@state.mt.us).

An **on-line shopping cart feature** now makes shopping at the Montana Historical Society Museum Store's website easier than ever. Items available on the website include Charlie Russell memorabilia, cookbooks, Lewis and Clark items, Montana books, notecards, calendars, and merchandise so new it was not featured in last fall's Museum Store catalog. As always, Society members receive a 15% discount with online purchases. One click on the "Online Museum Store" icon on the Montana Historical Society homepage (www.montanahistoricalsociety.org) takes you to the store's site.



Montana The Magazine of Western History invites applications for the **2004 Merrill G. Burlingame–K. Ross Toole Award**. Named in honor of two of Montana's most influential historians, this annual competition recognizes the best article-length manuscript written by an undergraduate or graduate student on any western history topic. The winner will receive a \$150 award, plaque, and consideration for publication in *Montana The Magazine of Western History*. Applicants should send manuscripts with a cover letter to Burlingame–Toole Award, *Montana The Magazine of Western History*, Montana Historical Society, P.O. Box 201201, Helena, Montana 59620-1201 or e-mail submissions to mholz@state.mt.us. Deadline for submitting manuscripts is May 31, 2004.

Don't miss the **summer issue** of Montana's favorite history magazine, *Montana The Magazine of Western History*. You can look forward to reading articles on Hawai'ian cowboys, the Montana Historical Society's acclaimed Mackay Collection of Charles M. Russell art, Butte's Mai Wah Society, the tragic 1964 flood on the Blackfeet Reservation, and the Society's new Montana cookbook collection. Subscribe on-line (<https://app.discoveringmontana.com/mhsmembers/>) or by calling 1-800-243-9900.

The **31st Annual Montana History Conference**, "Hittin' the High Spots: History in Northwestern Montana," will take place October 28–30, 2004, at the Grouse Mountain Lodge in Whitefish. Keynote speaker Dr. Harry Fritz will kick off the conference at the Thursday night downtown Whitefish event with

his talk "Lost in Montana: The Truth about Lewis and Clark." For more information, please visit <http://www.montanahistoricalsociety.org/education/histconf.asp>.

Three new hands-on history footlockers are now available to classrooms and groups through the Education Office. *Architecture: It's All Around You* explores different architectural styles and elements of buildings, urban and rural, plus ways in which people can preserve buildings for the future. *Contemporary American Indians in Montana* highlights the renaissance of Montana's Indian cultures and tribal efforts to maintain their identities and traditions through innovative projects. *The Home Fires: Montana and World War II* describes aspects of everyday life in Montana during the 1941–1945 war years. It also illustrates little-known government projects such as the Fort Missoula Alien Detention Center and Civilian Public Service Camps. Funding for these footlockers was provided by the E. L. Wiegand Foundation and US Bank. To reserve these—or other—footlockers, call 406-444-4789. Curriculum guides for all of the footlockers are available at <http://www.montanahistoricalsociety.org/education/footlocker/default.asp>.

The **Brewery Saloon** (a.k.a. the Palm Building) at 120 Main Street, Kalispell, was officially added to the **Kalispell Main Street National Register Historic District** on February 5, 2004. The building, constructed by Charles Lindlahr in 1892 with a second floor added in 1900, is particularly significant for its association with the social and cultural development of the community—as a saloon, brewery, men's social club, and Kalispell's first bowling alley (in a 1901 addition). The building had earlier been considered non-contributing to the National Register of Historic Places district owing to intrusive changes. After current owner John Hinchey carefully restored the facade to its original appearance, he worked with staff of the Society's State Historic Preservation Office to successfully amend the nomination.

Melissa Ray, a University of Montana student, is undertaking an **internship in the State Historic Preservation Office** beginning February 1, 2004, and continuing through May 14, 2004. Ray recently completed her Bachelor of Arts in anthropology with a minor in Native American studies. She hopes to use her experience at the Montana Historical Society to prepare herself for graduate work in anthropology leading to a possible career in historic preservation and archaeology.

Members of the **Friends of the Society** are quietly at work in every department of the Montana Historical Society as well as outside the Society's walls. Several new volunteers are going through docent training and three Society volunteers are reading history to individuals who live at the Helena Masonic Home. To express our appreciation for all the work the Friends do, the Society is planning its Annual Spring Volunteer Luncheon for Monday, April 19, 2004. The Friend's Spring History Tour—this year to St. Ignatius Mission and a nearby Amish community—will be on May 26, 2004. If you are interested in joining the Friends, contact Delight Sullivan at 406-444-9553.

Librarian of Congress James H. Billington provided the keynote address for the **Sixth Annual Montana Heritage Project Youth Heritage Festival**. Held March 29-30, 2004, in Helena, the Festival gave young scholars from a dozen Montana high schools the opportunity to present their year's community history research work. The students' work will be housed in the Society's archives. Joining Dr. Billington in recognizing the students' contributions to Montana history were Governor Judy Martz, Superintendent of Public Instruction Linda McCullough, and MHS Director Arnie Olsen. The Liz Claiborne and Art Ortenberg Foundation funds the Project.

Accessions

The Montana Historical Society is grateful to the 255 organizations, businesses, and individuals who donated works of art, artifacts, archival materials, books, education materials, and photographs to the Society in 2003. See a full list of our [2003 donors](#).

The Society continues to welcome donations and encourages anyone interested in donating items to contact the following individuals: Charlene Porsild, library (406-444-4775, cporsild@state.mt.us); Molly Kruckenberg, archives (406-444-7482, mkruckenberg@state.mt.us); Lory Morrow, photograph archives (406-444-4714, dmorrow@state.mt.us); or Kirby Lambert, museum (406-444-4711, klambert@state.mt.us).

Calendar

Thursday Evenings at the Society

Free and open to the public, at the Montana Historical Society, 225 North Roberts St., Helena

April 1, 7:00 p.m.: **From the Foundation Up: Introduction to Historic Property Research.** Kate Hampton, State Historic Preservation Office

April 8, 7:00 p.m.: **From Pit Houses to Ranch Houses: Montana's Architectural Styles.** Rolene Schliesman, State Historic Preservation Office

April 15, 7:00 p.m.: **Understanding Historic Masonry.** Pete Brown, State Historic Preservation Office

April 22, 7:00 p.m.: **Traveler's Rest National Historic Landmark: Validation and Verification of a Lewis and Clark Campsite.** Daniel Hall, Western Cultural, Inc.

April 29, 6:30 p.m.: **"Pages in History": A Monthly Book Discussion—*Hope in Hard Times*, by Mary Murphy**

May 6, 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.: ***Hope in Hard Times: New Deal Photographs of Montana Exhibit Opening.*** At 7:00 p.m., guest curator Mary Murphy will speak about the photographers and their work.

May 13, 7:00 p.m.: **Preserving Family Heirlooms, Part 1.** Molly Kruckenberg, Ellie Arguimbau, and Jodie Foley, MHS Research Center

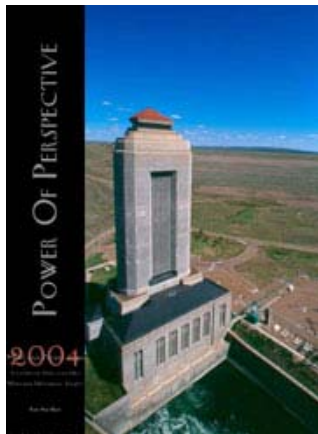
May 20, 7:00 p.m.: **Preserving Family Heirlooms, Part 2.** *Montana's Museum Staff*

May 27, 6:30 p.m.: **"Pages in History": A Monthly Book Discussion—*Fools Crow*, by James Welch**

Statewide Events

April 26 – May 1: **Montana Archaeology Week.** Events will be held in Bozeman, Butte, Missoula, Miles City, and Sidney. For more information, contact Stan Wilmoth (swilmoth@state.mt.us; 406-444-7719).

April 30 – May 2: **Montana Archaeological Society annual meeting, Miles City.** Admission free. For more information, contact Doug Melton (doug_melton@blm.gov; 406-233-2800).



May 3 – May 9: **National Historic Preservation Week: "New Frontiers in Preservation."** Events will be held in Great Falls, Bozeman, Virginia City, Havre, Missoula, and elsewhere across the state. For more information, contact Rolene Schliesman (rschliesman@state.mt.us; 406-444-7742).

Fort Peck Dam Power Plant #1 is featured on Montana State Preservation Office's 2004 Preservation Week Poster.

Spring and Summer Hours

Montana's Museum and Museum Store

To May 1

Tuesday-Saturday, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.; Thursday evening until 8:00 p.m.
Closed Sundays, Mondays, and holidays

May 1–September 30

Mondays-Saturdays, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.; Thursday evening until 8:00 p.m.
Closed Sundays and holidays

Museum Admission Fee

\$3.00 per adult, \$1.00 per student, \$8.00 per family
As of May 15: \$5.00 per adult, \$1.00 per student, \$12.00 per family

Research Center

Library and Archives: Tuesday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; Saturday, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Closed Sundays, Mondays, and holidays. No admission fee.

Photograph Archives: Tuesday-Friday, 1:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.
Closed weekends, Mondays, and holidays. No admission fee.

Capitol Guided Tours

May 1–September 30

Tours begin on the hour.
Mondays-Saturdays, 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. Last tour begins at 2:00.
Sundays, 12:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m. Last tour begins at 3:00.
Closed Holidays. Groups call 406-444-4789 for reservations.

Original Governor's Mansion

May 1–September 30

Tuesdays-Saturdays, 12:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m. Tours begin on the hour. Last tour begins at 3:00.
Closed Sundays, Mondays, and holidays. Groups call 406-444-4789 for reservations.

OGM Admission Fee

\$2.00 per adult, \$1.00 per student, \$6.00 per family
As of May 15: \$4.00 per adult, \$1.00 per student, \$10.00 per family